

CBC NEWSLETTER

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BIRDERS HEAD FOR THE HILLS

If you haven't made your motel reservations for the fall meeting, September 21-23, go to the phone right now and call the Asheville Holiday Inn East at (704) 298-5661. The deadline for reservations set by the motel is August 21, but if this Newsletter reaches you after that date, call anyway. The rate for single or double occupancy is \$42.12. Remember that if your plans change, you must cancel reservations by 6:00 p.m. on September 21 to avoid a charge.

CBC Vice-President Ruth Young has been hard at work making plans for an outstanding meeting. The host club is the Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society of Asheville.

Headquarters for the meeting will be the Holiday Inn East located at the intersection

of I-40 and US 70 in Asheville, NC. Take Exit 55 off I-40 to the motel. Registration will begin at 3:00 p.m. A form is also provided in the Newsletter for registration for the meeting. Remember that advance registration makes the job of our volunteer registration staff easier and saves you money.

The speaker for Friday night will be **Allen Boynton** of the North Carolina Natural Resources Commission. He will talk about the Peregrine Falcon project, which he directs. The Saturday night speaker is **Dr. Fred Alsop** from East Tennessee State University. His program is entitled "Trekking with a Wildlife Photographer."

There will be five field trips offered on Saturday. **Allen Smith** will lead a

group north on the Blue Ridge Parkway, while **John and Paula Wright** will lead one south on the Parkway. **Robin Carter** will lead a field trip to Jackson Park and the South Mills River area of Henderson County, and **Ruth Young** will lead another to the farm and field area of Fairview. **Zora Weisbecker** will lead the final field trip to Chimney Rock. There is a \$5.00 group rate entrance fee to Chimney Rock on this trip. One of the park's naturalists may join this trip and add fall wildflowering to the experience.

Box lunches for the Saturday field trips will be available through the chef at the Holiday Inn East if reserved in advance. The cost will be \$4.25, and orders must be placed by **September 13**. An order form is provided in the Newsletter.

THE TRAVELING BIRDWATCHER

John and Libba Watson spent four mornings in May (23-26) birding the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Their report follows:

Mount Auburn seems to be the "hot spot" in that area to see migrating warblers in the spring. The Brookline Bird Club, some 1300 members strong, provides a leader almost every day in May for birding in the cemetery. Most trips meet at 6:00 a.m. at the entry gates. In a nook just inside the gates there is a chalkboard with all the sighting listed. Twenty species of warblers were seen while we were there, and Libba and I saw 18 of them. We just missed seeing a Philadelphia Vireo which was sighted just before we got there one morning. Among the warblers seen which were not usually seen in our area were Wilson's, Tennessee, Nashville, and Blackpoll. One we wanted to see, but did not, is the Mourning Warbler, which also had been seen.

It was gratifying to see not only the

large number of different species but also the numbers of each which were seen. For example, if you saw a Black-throated Green Warbler in a tree, you usually saw several in the same tree. This was the case for many species.

The icing on the cake, for us, was a first--an Olive-sided Flycatcher. It very obligingly perched on the very tip of a 30 foot tall obelisk and stayed around for quite a while. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was also seen, but we missed it.

We went to the cemetery four mornings, having a great time. One of the club's leaders said that it had been the best May in 15 years. He felt that the unusually cool weather in May kept the birds at Mount Auburn longer than normal.

On our way back home we stopped by Cape May, NJ on May 30 to see the shorebirds eating the horseshoe crab eggs on the beaches. The best spot is Reeds Beach on the Delaware Bay shore.

What a sight! There must have been two to three thousand, mostly Ruddy

Turnstones, but with a good number of Red Knots and Sanderlings. A "scoreboard" at a viewing platform indicated that in the previous week more than 17,000 turnstones and 13,000 knots with fewer numbers of Sanderlings, Dunlins and a couple of other species had been seen.

All in all, a very satisfying birding week. 208 Rob Roy Road, Southern Pines, NC 28387

* * *

Ernest B. Kellogg of Landrum, SC traveled to Calgary, Alberta, Canada this summer on a non-birding trip. His purpose was to get acquainted with his first great granddaughter (a beauty according to Ernest). However, he clipped a birding article by Peter Whelan from *The Globe and Mail*. It was an informative and fascinating summary of birding activity across Canada this summer. Although too

(continued on page 4)

BACKYARD BIRDING

with
FRANCES J. NELSON

Kate Lewis of Sumter, SC writes that while visiting her sister and brother-in-law in Beaufort, SC, she watched a chickadee eat a sunflower seed and then fly to the hummingbird feeder and take a sip of sugar water. She also tells another story about her brother-in-law washing out a birdhouse. He had put the house in a pail of water before he realized that a Screech Owl was inside. He gave the owl artificial respiration (no details) and dried it with a hair dryer. "Owlbert" survived to use the house another season.

Evelyn Dabbs of Mayesville, SC reports that in addition to the usual Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at her hummer feeders, she has also had a Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Parula Warbler, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Downy Woodpecker, and Red-bellied Woodpecker drinking the nectar. And I was excited when a female house finch sat on top of one of our hummer feeders and looked like she was trying to decide whether or not drinking from the flower was worth the effort. So far, we've had nothing but hummers at our feeders--but maybe next year.

D. J. Abraham and his wife of West Columbia, SC were entertained recently by a Tufted Titmouse who ignored the cantaloupe seeds which were being consumed by the Cardinals and went for a fig which was on the same tray. The titmouse tried to carry the fig away, but it fell to the brick terrace. He flew down and impaled it again and hopped, and the fig dropped. This sequence continued as he "dribbled" the fig like a basketball for a distance of about eight feet.

* * *

May and June were relatively quiet as far as new birds on our property except for on Summer Tanager which we saw for several days. However, the Cardinals, chickadees, titmice, goldfinches, Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers, a pair of House Finches, and hummingbirds kept us filling feeders daily. We did see two Purple Martins on the martin house, and have since read in *The Bird Watcher's Digest* that we have the bluebird house too close to the martin house. The BWD says that bluebirds tend to come first and run the

martins off if the houses are too close together. I do know that the male bluebird used to sit on the martin house, but I thought he was using the height as a lookout point. Evidently, he was keeping the martins away. So now we have a dilemma--which house do we move? Of course, the bluebird house is the easier one to relocate, but will that upset the bluebirds?

Also in June another pair of bluebirds (or it may have been the same ones), built another nest, and fledged four more babies. These kept us entertained by coming close to the house for insect hunting.

In mid-June, a pair of kingbirds began building a nest on the island in a willow tree hanging over the pond. Later, CJ and I took the canoe to the island, but we couldn't find the nest. About a week later, though, I saw the kingbirds working on another nest nearby. Eventually, they began to sit and seemed to take turns.

On July 1, we saw a Wood Duck family on the pond--mama, papa, and three babies. They never used our box, but perhaps they were checking out the pond for a possible breeding place for next year. They returned several times, and then one day we saw only the three young ones, but they left before dark and did not return.

By July 6, the kingbirds were active chasing other birds away. We saw them after cowbirds, doves, a Green-backed Heron, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and a kingfisher. By July 15, they were busy carrying food to the nest where we found four babies. We left home for the day on the 24th, and we haven't seen them since.

On July 13th, we had to put up two more hummingbirds feeders. Evidently, the babies had hatched out and fledged, because the two original feeders were no longer enough. We haven't been able to get a really good count, but we estimate 6 to 8 hummers. We fill the feeders about every other day and spend more time than we should sitting on the deck letting them entertain us. And entertain us they do. With our begonia, hibiscus, and bougainvillea on the deck and a feeder nearby, we feel like we're in a war zone. The hummers dart back and forth just over our heads, dive bombing one another and

chattering like Little League baseball players. Once I saw two doing their mating flight, then land on the ground for a few seconds. They might have stayed on the ground longer, but our male muscovy saw them land and waddled toward them; scaring them back into the air.

During July we had four Chimney Swifts come in every afternoon to bathe and drink in our pond. They circled and swooped grazing the water surface one at a time. Once a group of Barn Swallows did the same thing, but they haven't been back.

Around the first of August, the robins returned. I hadn't seen any since spring, and suddenly, robins were hopping around the yard again. Is this a sign of fall? The weather certainly doesn't feel fallish, but perhaps the nights will cool off some. At any rate, the robins are here.

This summer we have had a pair of Indigo Buntings nesting near us, and one morning CJ saw them with one baby bathing in our creek. He also saw the female Hooded Warbler with a baby. I have seen the female, but I have yet to see the young. We assume the Louisiana Waterthrush nested, because we've continued to hear him off and on this summer, and last year a pair did nest here. So far, though, we haven't seen any young ones.

We have spent the summer marvelling at young chickadees, titmice, Cardinals, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, goldfinches, House Finches, bluebirds, and hummers. The grass has just about gotten out of hand, but watching the birds is so much more fun than mowing that we have let most of the yard become our wildflower garden. Our justification is that the seeds make wonderful natural food for the birds.

And now I must end the column to go watch my birds. CJ and I are going to the meeting in Asheville and hope to see you there. If you have any bird stories to share, please send them to me at 9776 Dogwood Hill Lane, Wake Forest, NC 27585. For those of you who prefer not to write, my phone number is (919) 528-2827.

* * *

CBC RARE BIRD ALERT
(704) 332-BIRD

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND ORDER FORM

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel. () _____ (home) _____ (business) _____
ENTER/RENEW MEMBERSHIP AS INDICATED SEND MATERIALS INDICATED

____ Individual (\$12) _____ Life (\$200) _____ CBC Cloth arm patch \$1.50 ea., \$1.25 ea. in quantity
____ Family (\$15) _____ Patron (\$50) _____ CBC Decals (water type) 75c ea., 50c ea. in quantity
____ Student (\$6) _____ Daily Checklists 10/\$1.00, 25/\$1.25, 50/\$2.50, 75/\$3.75
____ Affiliate Club (\$15) 100/\$5.00
____ Library/Institution (\$15) Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and mail to PO Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611

BOX LUNCH ORDER FORM

Carolina Bird Club Fall Meeting, September 21-23, 1990

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ to reserve _____ box lunches at \$4.25 each for Saturday, September 22, 1990.
Lunch will include sandwich (chef's choice), chips, fruit and drink.

Mail with check to KAY TIPTON, HOLIDAY INN EAST, 1450 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC 28805

HOLIDAY INN RESERVATION FORM

Carolina Bird Club Fall Meeting, September 21-23, 1990

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ROOMS (single or double occupancy) \$42.12 including tax.

Please reserve _____ room(s) at \$42.12 per night. My check for the first night's lodging is enclosed. I will arrive _____ and
depart _____.

Mail with deposit to HOLIDAY INN-EAST, 1450 Tunnel Rd., Asheville, NC 28805 or call (704) 298-5611 before August 21.

REGISTRATION FORM

CBC Fall Meeting, September 21-23, 1990

Name(s) _____
(list each name for name tags)
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ member registrations at \$4 each and _____ nonmember registrations
at \$5 each. Registration at meeting will be \$5 for members and \$6 for nonmembers.

Mail with check to CAROLINA BIRD CLUB, INC., PO Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MICHAELLE ALDENDERFER
Charleston, SC

KATHERINE HIGGINS
Mint Hill, NC

MARGARET MOORE
Holly Ridge, NC

CHARLES BRYAN
Raleigh, NC

DORIS KINGDON
New Bern, NC

FRANK McLEOD MOORMAN
Fayetteville, NC

TED CALDWELL FAMILY
Lookout Mountain, TN

CLARK McCREEDY
Aiken, SC

TRAVELING BIRDWATCHER (continued from page 1)

long to include in its entirety; here is a sample:

First a ruff, then a crowd of them. A splendid black ruff at Hamilton, Ont., two weekends ago was succeeded by four or five of the Eurasian shorebirds last weekend. The numbers were an Ontario if not a national record. Not just the rarity but the strangeness of ruffs draws attention. Wooing a mate, the male erects a unique display of long neck and nape feathers, more extravagant than the dandies ever thought of in the court of Queen Elizabeth I. The neck adornments come in different wild colors. Windermere's first ruff glowed black at the neck. Last Sunday, Kevin McLaughlin of Hamilton found a clearly different ruff: its display feathers were orange with white bases. With it were two reeves. (This species is also strange for having different names for male --ruff--and female--reeve.) On Monday,

Jeff Pocklin of Guelph found yet another differently colored ruff with a reeve in the same place.

Ruff sightings seem to be increasing in North America. A footnote in birding history awaits the person who confirms suspicions that this Old World bird is nesting in the New World.

The first breeding hazard of birds so far from home is to find each other after migrating separately. Several birds are trying hard to do that now. In a weedy field at Shediac Bridge, N.B., a male clay-colored sparrow sang a week for a mate. Consider his chances: no clay-color is known to have nested in the province, his song is an insecty little buzz and the nearest female may be in Quebec.

Similarly, the least flycatcher shouting his little *Ch-bkk* outside Vancouver this week could be two-thirds of British Columbia away from the nearest potential mate. This, while the species is abundant all the way to the Atlantic.

Bobolinks bounced westward. The first nest recorded west of the Cascades is in a

hayfield at Courtenay, Vancouver Island. The farmer was asked for harvesting mercy.

In Saskatchewan, Bernard and Michael Gollop shared a sight seen by few in Canada: a white-faced and a glossy ibis standing a metre apart. The birds were at Crane Lake, the glossy from the South-eastern United States, the white-faced from the U. S. West. Even rarer, an immature whooping crane seemed to be summering at Eyebrow Lake, where another spent last summer.

DECEASED

JOHN HATCHER
Aiken, SC

COL. FREDERICK M. (PAT) PROBST
San Antonio, TX

MRS. ROBERT P. TEULINGS
Zebulon, NC

CBC NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc., the ornithological society of the Carolinas, with headquarters at Raleigh, NC. CBC is a nonprofit corporation, founded in 1937, with membership open to anyone interested in birds, natural history and conservation. Members are encouraged to submit items of interest to CBC Newsletter, Clyde Smith, Editor, 2615 Wells Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB, INC.



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